

# Hills church offers home to homeless

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(South Oakland Shelter) helping me out. But if I can make it without it, I'd rather," the 41-year-old said.

The two were among the 27-30 homeless who spent evenings at the southeast Farmington Hills church Dec. 25 to Jan. 1. The holiday week was St. Alexander's turn to house the homeless each evening and to provide dinner, breakfast and a bag lunch for the next day.

THE CHURCH is one of 39 participating in the Royal Oak-based SOS rotating emergency shelter program. Each church takes one week September-May, to help the homeless.

"There's a story in every one of them," said Peggy Harris, St. Alexander homeless program coordinator. "The big problem is they do not have anywhere to go. They go to the YMCA in Royal Oak for showers. Others are doing some kind of job. And some are left on the corner, or they go to the malls or the library, where it's warm."

Cots with clean and warm bedding are provided for St. Alexander's homeless in the church social hall. Men are separated from women, and the few children. Menus are prepared in advance to ensure nutritional meals, all of which are provided by volunteers and with donations.

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